

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024912

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, UR, GE

SU0JECT: V-E DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A. USNATO 0474, B. BONN 01349

1. THE SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY GIVEN US FIVE PROPOSALS FOR
JOINT US-USSR BILATERAL ACTIVITIES IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY, WHICH WE HAVE UNDER STUDY:

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A) EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS OF WAR VETERANS INCLUDING THE

PARTICIPANTS IN THE ELBE RIVER MEETING;

B) JOINT LAYING OF WREATHS AT THE MASS GRAVES OF THE DEAD
SOVIET AND US SERVICEMEN IN THE ELBE AREA;

C) EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS OF THE AIR FORCE VETERANS OF
THE "SHUTTLE OPERATION";

D) EXCHANGE OF VISITS OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF US
AND SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY; AND

E) EXCHANGE OF VISITS OF THE US AND SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS
AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOINT CONVOY OPERATIONS DURING
THE WAR.

2. FOR BONN. YOU MAY INFORM BONN GROUP OF SOVIET
PROPOSALS AND STATE THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY GIVING
CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLE LOW-KEY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS
EXCHANGE OF NAVAL VISITS (IN WHICH WE HAVE LONG BEEN
INTERESTED) AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF EXCHANGE OF VETERANS
GROUPS BETWEEN OUR TWO CAPITALS AND LAYING OF WREATHS
ON TOMBS OF UNKNOWN SOLDIERS IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW.
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF TASS HAVING REQUESTED LETTERS FROM
ANY LEADING US PUBLIC FIGURES SUCH AS WAS THE CASE WITH
ANTHONY EDEN (REFTEL B). YOU SHOULD CONFIRM OUR OPPOSI-
TION TO OFFICIAL ALLIED PARTICIPATION IN CEREMONIES
ANYWHERE ON GERMAN TERRITORY, WITH EXCEPTION OF
ATTENDANCE, AS IN PAST BY MLMS AT ROUTINE FUNCTIONS
MARKING THIS ANNUAL EVENT.

3. WE ARE IN EARLY STAGES OF CONSIDERATION OF THE SOVIET
PROPOSALS MADE TO US AND WOULD WELCOME BONN GROUP VIEWS,
PARTICULARLY ANY INTEREST UK AND FRENCH MIGHT HAVE CON-
CERNING NAVAL VISITS AND EXCHANGE OF "SHUTTLE OPERATIONS"
VETERANS (IN VIEW OF MAJOR UK ROLE AND HEAVY LOSSES IN
CONVOY OPERATIONS AND FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN ALLIED AIR
WAR THROUGH NORMANDIE-NIEMAN SQUADRON). CONCERNING
GENERAL QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION OUTSIDE GERMANY, WE
DOUBT THAT WE WOULD WANT TO LIMIT OURSELVES ONLY TO
PAST LEVELS, AS FRENCH SUGGESTED (REFTEL A), SINCE THIS
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WOULD PRECLUDE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY
SOVIET PROPOSALS CITED ABOVE.

4. FOR USNATO. YOU MAY PROVIDE THE FEBRUARY 4 POLADS
MEETING WITH THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 1 AND 2. YOU
SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT, WHILE WE ARE OPPOSED TO OFFICIAL
PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL 30TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES
ON GERMAN TERRITORY AND IN EVENTS ANYWHERE WITH STRONG

ANTI-GERMAN OVERTONES, WE ARE GIVING CONSIDERATION TO
POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED NATURE, SUCH AS NAVAL
VISITS AND EXCHANGE OF VETERANS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING ALLIED VIEWS. KISSINGER

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